(Question No. 301 - hon. Member absent)

*301. [The questioner (Shri A. Elavarasan) was absent. For answer *vide* page 20 *infra*.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Progress of Flagship Programmes

*302. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:††
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the concern over the progress of Government's flagship programmes, the Prime Minister has directed the Planning Commission to embark upon a fact-finding mission to ensure their benefits percolating to people in States;

(b) if so, whether on his directive, Government has since formulated any action plan to ascertain the facts and has submitted the report; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the functioning of the flagship programmes across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per the direction of the Prime Minister, officers of Planning Commission dealing with State Plans were asked to visit States periodically to review the implementation of flagship schemes and programmes and submit reports for submission to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The officers have already visited 17 States and 13 tour reports have been submitted to the PMO so far. Each flagship programme has its own institutional mechanism at the Centre and State level for monitoring of progress by the respective administrative Ministries. The visit of the officers of the Planning Commission is an additional arrangement for an on the spot review of implementation of flagship programmes in the States. The feedback emerging from the reports on the visit of these officers is intended to provide an opportunity for systemic improvements in flagship programmes.

प्रो0 अलका क्षत्रिय : सभापति महोदय, आम जनता के जीवन स्तर को बेहतर बनाने के लिए भारत निर्माण, सर्व शिक्षा अभियान, मिड-डे मील, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण साक्षरता मिशन, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना, राजीव गांधी विद्युतीकरण योजना, जवाहर लाल नेहरु शहरीकरण योजना जैसी फ्लेगशिप योजनाओं पर केन्द्र सरकार ने इस साल 85,000 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया है। जवाब में बताया गया है कि प्रधान मंत्री जी के निर्देश पर योजना आयोग के अधिकारियों की एक टीम इनकी मॉनिटरिंग करने के लिए 17 राज्यों का दौरा कर चुकी है और 13 राज्यों के लिए उन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट भी प्रस्तुत की है। इसलिए, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि उस रिपोर्ट की प्रमुख बातें क्या हैं, उन पर सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है और जिन तीन राज्यों की रिपोर्ट अभी आनी बाकी है, वह कब तक आएगी?

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Alka Balram Kshatriya.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has directed the Planning Commission that the Advisers in the Planning Commission, who are in charge of those States' planning, have to visit the States, go to the rural areas and see the implementation of various flagship programmes by the concerned State Governments. This is one of the mechanisms that has been evolved. The nodal Ministries, that is, the Ministries in charge of those programmes have got their inbuilt mechanisms. The Planning Commission does Mid-term Appraisal and half-yearly appraisal of implementation of schemes. Apart from that, the Eleventh Plan's Mid-term Appraisal is also going to be there. On why we have brought this mechanism, I would like to share something with this House, and this is a matter of concern not only for the hon. Members of this House but also the people of this country as a whole. Hon. Prime Minister directed not only the Advisers but also the Members of the Planning Commission to go to the field. That was the directive from the hon. Prime Minister. I myself went to some States and I would like to share my perception about my field visit. Sir, I went to one State. I do not want to name the State. In Jaldhara Scheme, they have to dig well of about 20-feet depth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer the question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I would like to submit as to why this Monitoring Unit has been constituted. Rs.1,45,000 was the amount that was to be given to the people for doing work under NREGS, and only Rs.70,000 was given. Rs.75,000 was taken away by the *Sarpanch*. These complaints have come. I do not want to go into the details. Therefore, this monitoring mechanism had to be initiated from the Prime Minister's Office. The Monitoring Unit has been constituted and that Monitoring Unit will get the reports from the Advisers of the Planning Commission. On this basis, 17 visits have been made and 13 reports have been submitted. These reports were submitted a few days back. I would like to submit that according to the mandate given to these officers, they will brief the Monitoring Unit. Once in three months, they will brief the hon. Prime Minister about the progress of the report that has been received and action has to be taken by them. Therefore, it is a mechanism apart from the other delivery mechanism which has been evolved in this country.

प्रो0 अलका क्षत्रिय : सभापति महोदय, मैंने पूछा था कि रिपोर्ट में क्या-क्या बातें हैं, उसका जवाब तो मंत्री जी ने दिया नहीं, आगे की कार्यवाही की बात कर रहे हैं।

मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह सच है कि कुछ राज्य सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की फ्लेगशिप स्कीम्स लागू करने में उदासीन हैं और फ्लेगशिप स्कीम्स के लिए जो फंड दिया जाता है, उसको दूसरे उद्देश्यों के लिए डाइवर्ट कर रहे हैं, खास कर उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे राज्य, जिससे फ्लेगशिप योजनाओं का लाभ आम जनता को नहीं पहुंचता है। सभापति जी, मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूं कि यह जो flagship योजना है, इसके लिए जो खर्च किया जाता है या पैसा दिया जाता है, वह उसी योजना पर खर्च हो, इसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाना चाहती है?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has been specifically mentioning about one State because the Planning Commission officials visited there. It is our endeavour to put the report which has been submitted by them on the website for the public consumption; on the basis of which, a decision is taken by the Delivery Monitoring Unit so that the public comes to know as to how the schemes are being implemented in various States. It will be in the public knowledge, and, it will be done. In some States, some complaints have come. It is in the knowledge of the Planning Commission also. Our main endeavour is to ensure that the targeted group gets the advantage of the schemes or the flagship programmes. That is our main objective. To achieve that, this particular unit has been constituted which will rectify the mistakes wherever they are. We don't want to have any quarrel with the State Governments. We want the State Governments to carry on with the schemes, in a manner, which benefits the targeted group.

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय : सभापति जी, यू.पी. के बारे में मंत्री जी ने नहीं बताया कि उसका पैसा divert हो रहा है या नहीं हो रहा है। वहां बड़े-बड़े Statues तो बन रहे हैं, लेकिन लोगों के लिए काम नहीं हो रहा है, मंत्री जी कम से कम इसके बारे में तो बताएं।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : सभापति जी, यह बहुत valid सवाल है। Sir, a very valid question has been asked by the Member. The Minister should reply to it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, as has already been mentioned, I do not want to specifically name any State. Whatever report has been received from the Planning Commission, that will be put on the website. *(Interruptions)*

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय : मैंने particular स्टेट के बारे में पूछा है...(व्यवधान)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: But, Sir... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Gopal ji, please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It will be put on the website and you will be able to know about it. *(Interruptions)*

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय : अगर website पर होता, तो हम लोग question नहीं करते...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine. Shri N.K. Singh.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Sir, in the reply to part one of the question, the last few words refer to the benefits percolating to the people. In the light of the special conference which the Planning Commission had convened in October, the two critical decisions were: to develop a robust model for evaluation of flagship programmes, and, alongwith it, to set up an independent evaluation office with an arm's length relationship, to monitor the benefits of such flagship programme including the benefits percolating to the people. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether such a robust model has been developed and whether the independent evaluation office has made any progress.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Member asked a very valid question. As I have already told, in the Planning Commission, from time to time, whenever the Members visit a

State, we sit and discuss, and, then, we evaluate the implementation of the scheme. That is being done. Hon. Member wants to know about the robust model for the purpose of evaluating the scheme... *(Interruptions)* Let me complete. Sir, from time to time, the evaluation of the flagship programmes is being done by the Planning Commission, and, thereafter, the Delivery Monitoring Unit is another agency which has been constituted on the direction of the hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, my submission is that whatever is the mechanism, which is being worked out, that mechanism has to go to the people and it should benefit the people. Therefore, if there are complaints, we will have to ensure that the States cooperate with us so that the schemes are implemented in an effective manner.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, an important initiative has been launched by the Government in February, 2009, that is, the Unique Identification Number, the UIA. In the first phase, it is understood that the UIA project plans to partner with NREGS and PDS in order to ensure that there is easy identification, there is no faking of identity and that the benefits percolate.

My question is: What are the safeguards that the Government will put in place. If the UIA is made mandatory by the Government for anybody to access the PDS or the NREGS, what safeguards will the Government put in place to ensure that the onus is upon the Government and not upon the poor person to make the enrolment? And (b) part is: What are the safeguards for the Government to ensure that any xenophobic Government or any Government with an agenda does not prevent poor migrants from other States from accessing these programmes?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the Unique Identification Authority has been constituted. It has started its work. In fact, two committees were constituted. Today, one question was about Data Standards and Verification Committee. It has to submit its report about the collection of data. A period of 90 days has been mandated for it. I would like to inform the hon. House that this Committee is even going to submit its report within 65 days. Therefore, that job has to be completed now. Second is the Biometric Committee for the purpose of overseeing the technology used in making the Unique Identity Card, so that other people cannot take advantage of it by the duplicity of the data. Therefore, the Committee has been mandated to start the process of issuing first set of identity cards within 12-18 months. A period of 18 months has been given to it. With this Unique Identity Card, there will be no duplicity of data and a unique code will be there, so that other people cannot take its advantage. If any fake card comes, it will not work. This is the unique system. The Unique Identity Card will ensure that.

I would like to inform the House that the Data Standards Committee had submitted its report yesterday itself. As I said within 60 days it would submit, it had submitted it yesterday itself. We will complete the task of giving the Unique Identity Card within the timeframe.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : सर, मंत्री जी जो जवाब दे रहे हैं..(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति : आप अपना सवाल पूछ लीजिए ..(व्यवधान)..

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : सर, वह तो जलेबी बना रहे हैं, वह कुछ जवाब नहीं दे रहे हैं ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : सर, इतना गंभीर सवाल है, सवाल क्या है और वह जवाब क्या दे रहे हैं ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is asking the question.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, जो सवाल पूछा जाता है, उसका सीधा जवाब नहीं दिया जाता है ..(व्यवधान).. हमारी भी चिंता वही है कि मंत्री लोग सीधा जवाब नहीं देते हैं। आप हमें संरक्षण दें, आप हमारे गार्जियन हैं ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member who asked the question appears to be satisfied with the answer. Please go ahead with your question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The answer is for the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, it is the property of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत : सर, मैं यह अनुरोध करती हूँ कि यह जो जलेबी वाला जवाब है, अगर वह कम बनाएं, तो हाउस बहुत satisfied हो जाएगा। मेरा प्वाइंट यह है कि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के साथ बैठकर मोनिटरिंग कर रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि उस रिपोर्ट में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स की तरफ से यह सवाल उठा कि यह जो जनता के target के आधार पर targeted प्रोग्राम है, उसमें टारगेट ही गलत है, क्योंकि poverty estimate गलत है और इसलिए टारगेटेड प्रोग्राम में अधिकतर गरीब लोग जो beneficiaries होना चाहिए, वह उस प्रोग्राम से बाहर है? अगर स्टेट गवनमेंट्स ने इस प्रकार की शिकायत की कि आप अपने poverty estimate को बदलिए। आप इस प्रोग्राम में beneficiaries की संख्या को बढ़ाइए। इसके बारे में सरकार की क्या रवैया है? तेन्दुलकर कमेटी ने भी अभी अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश की है, आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां मौजूद हैं, उसकी रिपोर्ट के assessment के अनुसार 13 प्रतिशत गरीब रुरल जनता की संख्या बढ़ाई जाएगी, तो यह पूरी जो percolation का सवाल है, गरीब जनता की definition के बारे में आप क्या कुछ करेंगे?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Member is referring to poverty line, which had been the focus of attention in the last Session also when the issue was raised by the hon. Member. Sir, the Government constituted a Committee since the dispute came from various States about the criterion of poverty line. The Tendulkar Committee had been appointed. The Tendulkar Committee had submitted its Report two days back to the Government. The Planning Commission is seized of the matter. The Planning Commission will sit and take a view on that.

And after that the House will have an opportunity to discuss the whole issue of poverty line. The House is supreme. Whatever decision the House takes, we will go by that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri A.S. Karimpuri.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, मैं आदरणीय मंत्री से जानना चाहता हूं कि जिन 17 स्टेट्स में visit किया गया है और जिन 13 स्टेट्स की रिपोर्ट रखी गई है, तो वे कौन-कौन से स्टेट्स हैं, उसके details यहां नहीं दिए गए हैं।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already told this august House, the Report will be put on the website. If the hon. Member wants, ...*(Interruptions)*... That has been given to the Delivery Monitoring Unit. After its evaluation by the Delivery Monitoring Unit, we will definitely put it on the website and it will be available for public knowledge thereafter.

Chinese Incursions

*303. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:††
SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether deeper Chinese incursions into the disputed pockets have strained the bilateral agreements for maintaining peace and tranquility in the region;

(b) the action Government proposes in the matter; and

(c) the reaction of the international body to the present state of Indo-China relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) There has been no increase in the incidents of incursions in the recent past. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the Line of Actual control as well as on the boundary question. Government regularly takes up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels. Government considers the India-China boundary question as a purely bilateral matter and does not advocate discussion on this issue with other countries or international bodies.

SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the Chinese troops cross the Line of Actual Control (LAC) frequently and enter the Indian territory illegally and instances of waving Chinese flags and shouting anti-India slogans have been reported; if so, the steps taken and the reaction of Indian Government in this regard.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, whenever a reported incursion takes place on our borders, there is an established mechanism within which the matter gets settled at the field level itself. Hence, I might assure the hon. Member, in the light of the fact that our representatives are meeting to sort out these boundary issues and, therefore, there is bound to be such a confusion on our boundary, that there is nothing to be unduly alarmed.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mangala Kisan.